To the British Medical Association.

"Copy"

To the Dudley Rural District Council.
Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

Population in 1891	19,166
Area in Acres	26,521
Inhabited houses	3,116

The district consists of 11 parishes viz:—
Cam, Coseley, Dudley, Kingswood, North Kibley, Sympsfield, Owlpen, Slimbridge, Stinchcombe, Uley, and Wotton-u-Edge.
Inspector of Nuisances Mr J Robinson,
Silver St; Dudley.

To the Chairman and members of the Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

The rural district of Dudley is situated on the sides and buttresses of the Western Cotswolds which consists largely of the White lime-stone. Many of the houses are built upon the hill sides, or on the abutments which run out to different distances into

the valley of the Severn.
Slimbridge is the only parish wholly situated in the valley; so that for the most part the district is naturally well drained.
The chief streams which drain the district are the Cam, which drains Alley, Dursley and Cam, and receives a part of the drainage of Cooley, empties itself into the Berkeley and Gloucester Canal.
The Nibley Brook which drains North Nibley empties itself into the Malford Brook.
The Dyers Brook and Alderly Brook which unite at Ringwood, these drain Wotton-u-Edge and Ringwood, and joins the Wickwar Brook.
The Wickwar Brook is a boundary between the Dursley Rural District and the Chipping Sodbury and Thornbury Rural districts.
None of these streams are used for drinking purposes by human beings.

The water supply

The water supply of the district is as follows:-
Wotton-u-Edge has now possessed its own water supply within a certain area since October 8th 1894. This when it is a dry summer is found to be inadequate so that efforts have been and are being made to increase the supply.
To assist in this I with Mr Robinson visited and inspected two springs arising near Mr Daw's Homestead Coombe and took samples of the water for examination both samples turned out satisfactory.
Schemes have been adopted by your Board which were recommended by Mr Cotterell C. E. Bristol, for increasing the supply and

extending the mains over the Holywell, Linwell and Wortley Road area and an application has been made to the Local Government Board for their sanction of a further loan of £1850 to carry them out.

In addition to present supply there is "The Row" and "Old Town" a supply brought from a spring on the hill-side north of the Town.

The outskirts of the parish as Holywell, Linwell and Wortley Rd are supplied by springs or dipwells, or cisterns with taps.

The village of Kirkwood has its own water supply the source of which is on the side of the hill facing Wotton-u-Edge.

Cooley also has a water supply this is from Spring Spring, the outskirts by the parish by dipwells.

Many of the inhabitants in Dursley are supplied by wells on their premises but on the higher parts of the Town, and also for the workhouse the water has to be fetched from the Broadwell, which is a copious stream of water near the centre of the town.

For some time past various schemes have been suggested for supplying Dursley with water but without success as yet, except what has been done by private enterprise and through the Kindness of Mrs Eyre who had pipes laid on and taps fixed in the upper part of Union St and and Hunger Hill which supplies water from her cistern by gravitation.

This need has been met, where it was the greatest.

A scheme with certain provisos is under consideration for supplying the town with water from a supply on land belonging to Mr Phelps. This would have to be pumped to a reservoir on higher ground than the town. This it is proposed to do by a pump driven by one of Mr Tildt's Windmills and so supply it to the Town by gravitation.

For the furtherance of this scheme at the request of your Board the Local Government Board held an enquiry which was conducted by C. A Sandford Fauckt Esq at the Victoria Hall, Dudley, on December 12th. relative to the taking up of a loan of £4000 the amount Calculated will be required to carry out the proposed works, at which enquiry I attended and gave evidence.

There is a small water supply in Upper Cam, and one in Lower Cam, both conveniently situated, and are a great boon to the people. The well near the Post-Office Lower Cam has been cleaned, and a pump fixed.

All the remaining parishes are supplied by springs and deep or shallow wells, some with the greater number Orchard pumps. All these supplies are under the control of your Board.

The sewers and sewage

The sewage of Dudley is partly water borne partly collected in dry earth closets and partly in the old fashioned privy vaults. The water-borne enters the Stream called the Cam. One of the sewers empties itself into the Broadwell Stream This

passes through a mill which is very unsatisfactory and to which objection has been raised. This I have before pointed out ought to be taken out of the stream, and carried to the bottom of the town. Some of the sewers are very defective being built of loose stone.

The Scavenging is done once a week when the dry earth closets are emptied. The sewage of Walton-U-Edge is only to a small extent water-borne; dry earth closets being by far the most common method of collecting it. The Scavenging is done once a week most of the sewers are built of loose stone; all emptying into the Dyer Brook.

The other parishes have no proper sewers. The commonest method of collecting the sewage is by the privy vault which is often very large and most unhealthy. Many bad throats take their origin from this source.

Wickwar Brook

I visited and inspected the Wickwar Brook and sewage works on April 18th. This brook still creates a great nuisance to residents in our own district. It appears to me that through the smallness of the settling tanks for the amount of sewage treated and the unsuitability of the soil for land filtration the result is disappointing, the brook is still in hot weather and when the stream is small very offensive.

Inspection of Nuisances

Under Sec 91 Public Health Act 875. I made seventeen inspections of nuisances in different parts of the district during the year these were caused by choked drains pigstyes, cesspools &c &c. All have been placed in M. Robinson's

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hands, and all that could be were remedied, and in addition I with Mr Robinson made 43 visits to cottages in Rowley Cam on February 21st. Rl. - closet accommodation with the result that the closet accommodation has been increased.

Under Housing Working Classes Act 1890 Part II

On July 11th I with Mr Robinson visited and inspected a cottage at Coaley. No action was taken as the responsible person promised to make it tenantable. Something was done

Under Sec 46 Public Health Act 1875.

We visited and inspected on February 23rd a cottage at Ham's Hill Coaley and recommended "cleansing and limewashing" as we found it "so filthy as to endanger Health" this was done and on March 25th. we visited and inspected a second cottage at Ham's Hill, Coaley under the same Section and found it so filthy as "to endanger Health". "Cleansing and limewashing were recommended but were not done.

Overcrowding.

Under Sec 91 Public Health Act 1875 two visits of inspection were made in one the nuisance was found not to exist. In the other at the Quarry Cam, it has been ~~adopted~~ abated.

New dwellings. Five visits have been made to 8 new dwellings erected during the year under Public Health (Water) Act 1878 Sec: 3 & 6.

Common Lodging-houses.

In April and again in November I with Mr Robinson visited and inspected the two common lodging houses, in Wotton-Under-Edge.

under the Bye Laws relating thereto and were found satisfactory.
There is no common lodging house in Dudley.

Bakehouses & slaughter-houses:—
Thirty four bakehouses were inspected by me, and of these all were considered satisfactory. Sec: 34 & 35 Act 878 relating to workshops. Thirty five slaughter-houses were inspected of these 33 were satisfactory, and in two we recommended limewashing. The Bye laws relating to slaughter-houses in Dudley came into force in March 894 & Part III Public Health Act Amendment Act 890 is in force in this district.

Water Analyses—
Eighteen samples of water were examined by me during the year 11 were found Satisfactory and 7 suspicious.

Prosecutions—
There was one prosecution on March 27th of one Llewellyn Smith of Ham's Hill, Coaley who was summoned before the Justices of the Peace sitting at Dudley to show cause why he should not carry out the instructions of the Board relative to "Cleansing and limewashing his house. He was fined.

Closing of Schools—
The Public Elementary Schools Coaley were closed on account of an outbreak of Measles in the parish, in all from September 28th to November 4th. Three separate certificates were issued.
The Infant School Lower Cam was closed on

account of an outbreak of whooping-cough in the parish from December 4th to the 22nd the commencement of the Xmas holidays.

Attendances at Meetings:—

I attended nine meetings of the Board during the year.

Influenza.—

Influenza was prevalent in the district in both the Spring and Autumn. Six deaths were registered from it with complications and one without complications.

Isolation:—

One case of Scarlatina was sent to the Hospital for isolating dangerous infectious disease at the Moors, Coaley, from the Workhouse on December 22nd. No other case occured in the workhouse.

Early and restricted isolation according to the nature of the malady of the infected and thorough disinfection will do much to prevent the spread of Dangerous Infectious Disease.

Vital Statistics:—

In the estimation of the population at all ages living at the middle of July 1899. I have adopted a down-grade Scale and that is taking the average rate of decline for the last thirty years before the census year 1891. the loss is 38 per annum and the estimated population is 11.853. The births registered exceed the deaths registered by 71 in 899: this is called the "Natural Enlargement." In this district in the past for so long a period both

immiquation and "Natural Increment" even (if at the same rate as at the present) were unable to balance the loss to the district by emmiquation.

The Vital Statistics for the year are as follows:- Viz:- There were 275 births registered in the district during the year of these 135 were males and 140 females.

In 1898 there were 274 births registered during the year so that one more birth was registered in 1899 than in 1898. In 1899 five more females were registered than males which is contrary to the usual rule that is "that there are more males born during the year than females."

The birth rate for 1899 per thousand of estimated population living at all ages at the middle of the year is 23·20 in 1898 it was 23·04.

This is called the crude birth-rate and is very low the birth rate for the County of Gloucester in 1898 was 25·64 for all England and Wales 29·4.

The deaths registered in the district during the year were 204 of these 113 were males and 91 females; so that 22 more males deaths were registered during the year than females.

The general death rate for the year per thousand estimated population is 17·21. This is the highest death rate for several years; in 1898 it was 12·8; and in 1897 it was 14·83. The general death rate for the County of Gloucester for 1898 was 13·22, and for all

England and Wales 17.6. So that it is just a triple less being 390 than all England and Wales in 1898.
The annual death rate for the different districts are Dursley and Workhouse 16.062 Uley 18.646, Wotton-u-Edge 17.860.
The deaths arranged according to (Table 3) various ages are as follows under one year 20. One year and under five 12. five and under fifteen 6, fifteen and under twenty five 10. twenty five and under sixty-five 50. sixty-five and upwards 97. Fifty eight lived over 70 years, twenty nine lived over 80 years. Five lived over 90 years, and one lived to be as 101. The nonogenarians and the centenarian all died in the Wotton-u-Edge district.

Infant Mortality The deaths registered under one year were 29, curiously enough exactly the same number as were registered under one year in 1898; but the proportion of deaths under one year in 1898 to the total deaths of that year is about 15 per cent and in 1899 it is about 14 per cent. And the rate of Infant Mortality is 166.454 that is, the deaths under one year of age occuring in the year to a thousand births.
In 1898 it was 166.8 in the County of Gloucester for 1898 it was 99.12, and for all England and Wales 161. The rate of Infant Mortality is very nearly the same as last year, and is low compared with all England and Wales.
In the Dursley District 19 died under one year or a rate of Infant mortality of 159. none in

the Workhouse one only in the Olney district which gives a rate of infant mortality 19·23, and 9 for a rate of infant mortality of 86·5 in the Wotton-U-Edge district.

Acute Respiratory Diseases seemed to have claimed the greatest number of victims and no especial Zymotic Disease. Five were registered as due to premature birth.

Zymotic Diseases and death rate:-

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases are Small-pox, Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria and membraneous-croup, Whooping-Cough Fever, Diarrhea and Dysentery and were the cause of death in 14 persons scattered in different parts of the District and different seasons of the year. Six in the Dursley. Four in the Olney and four in the Wotton-under-Edge districts none in the Workhouse. And the Zymotic death rate per thousand estimated population is 1·09 in 1898 it was 1·43, in the County of Gloucester 1·83, and for all England and Wales 2·22.

Four deaths were registered from Diphtheria and membraneous-croup. Five from Measles. Three from whooping-cough, one from Typhoid Fever and one from Diarrhea. One death occured in the Olney district from Erysipelas, and two in the Wotton-U-Edge district. Two in the Wotton-U-Edge district from Puerperal Fever. There was no death registered from Small-pox in the District, Scarlet Fever, Typhus, Continued or relapsing fever, Cholera or Rheumatic Fever. There were 21 deaths from the Acute Respiratory Diseases.

and the Respiratory death rate per thousand estimated population is 3·4 in 98 it was 1·9. In all probability the higher death rate was largely due to Influenza

Eleven deaths were due to Phthisis, Twenty two to heart disease, eight from Cancer (at the request of the Gloucester County Council Cancer is placed in a separate column in Table A) And seven from Injuries.

Table "B". This is the table of cases of Dangerous Infectious Sickness occuring in the different districts during the year and because the Act for Compulsory Notification of Dangerous Infectious Disease is in force in the District this is for the first time much nearer accuracy than before, although it cannot be looked upon as absolutely perfect because there are some diseases, so mild in their character as to escape detection Scarlatina, Typhoid Fever and Diphtheria may each and all be so mild as to cause but slight symptoms of illness and so escape without a diagnoses or a name. But assuming that all the cases of Dangerous Infectious Sickness were sufficiently severe to claim Medical attention then all that have occured in the District have been notified and are described in Table "B". The total number of Cases notified during the year are fifty-one. In 98 before Notification came into force we had 1/3 cases come to our knowledge up to November, and after 9 were notified

making 22 during the year.
Of the fifty one cases of Dangerous Infectious Sickness Notified during the year Table B. informs us that there were 16 cases of Scarlatina 15 cases of Diphtheria 1 of Membraneous Croup 3 of ~~Erysipelas~~, Typhoid Fever 4 of Puerperal ~~Fever~~ and 12 of Erysipelas. Of the several separate parishes there occured in Dursley 2 of Scarlatina 2 of Diphtheria and 4 of Erysipelas. Cam 4 of Scarlatina 8 of Diphtheria 1 of Puerperal Fever and 2 of Erysipelas. Cooley 1 of Puerperal Fever and 1 of Erysipelas No case in Nympsfield or Owlpen.
In Slimbridge 1 of membraneous Croup 1 of Typhoid Fever 1 of Erysipelas. Stinchcombe 3 of Diphtheria Tilly 1 of Diphtheria and 1 of Puerperal Fever Wotton-u.-Edge 4 of Scarlatina and 2 of Typhoid Fever North Nibley 1 of Scarlatina and 3 of Erysipelas and Hamwood 2 of Scarlatina 1 of Diphtheria 1 of Puerperal Fever and 1 of Erysipelas. So that from the above it is evident that Cam is the parish that has suffered most from Dangerous Infectious Sickness.

Season Of the quarters of the year 10 were notified in the first 8 in the second 18 in the third and 10 in the fourth. The highest number in any month was August which was 10. The lowest April, Mel. About one in five of these notified ended fatally. One fourth of the cases of Diphtheria and membraneous Croup were fatal.
The Cases of Infectious Sickness taken from the District Medical Officers Relief Books

are Nibley 1 of Erysipelas Dudley 1 of whooping cough Coaley 7 of Measles. There were many cases of Influenza and also of Diarrhea reported.
There was a severe outbreak of Measles in Coaley during the months of September, October, November which was in all probability imported by a traveller as the initial case commenced at an Inn, and the disease ultimately spread through the village almost certainly through the agency of Public Elementary School.
There was also an outbreak of whooping-cough in Dudley during the months of June July and August. But as neither whooping-cough nor measles are notified in this District we have no correct account of number of cases that occured.

Prospective —

Some of the subjects stored us for your consideration in the future are, The Dudley Water Supply, The Watton-Under-Edge water supply and the provision of an hospital for the Treatment of Dangerous Infectious Disease in lieu of the Moor, Coaley.
Appended is the Annual Return of Work done by the Pobmion Inspector of Nuisances.

I remain
Your Obedient Servant
Francis Jas Dymes
Medical Officer of Health.

Feb: 17th 1900.

M3.
(A) Table of Deaths during the Year 1899 in the Dursley Rural District
classified according to Diseases, Ages, & Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics: public institutions being shown as separate localities: Columns for Population and Births are in (a) Table B)	All ages	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages. Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Mortality from subjoined causes distinguishing Deaths of children under five years of age. 1 Small-pox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Typhus	6 Enteric or Typhoid Continued	7 Relapsing	8 Puerperal	9 Cholera	10 Erysipelas	11 Measles	12 Acute Hydrocephalus	13 Diarrhœa & Dysentery	14 Rheumatic Fever	15 Phthisis	16 Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, Asthma & Heart-Disease	17 Cancer	18 Injuries	19 All other Diseases	22 Total
	(a)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)						Fevers													
Dursley District	72	19	2	3	4	17	27	Under 5												2	1		8			2	7	20
								5 upwards			2	1										4	9	5	1	3	27	52
Workhouse	10					3	7	Under 5																			
								5 upwards															4	1	1		4	10
Dley district	35	1	4	1	2	8	19	Under 5											3				3					6
								5 upwards											1				2	6	6	1	1	12	29
Stratton. St. Edge	87	9	6	2	4	22	44	Under 5				1							1	1			3				9	15
								5 upwards					1			2		2				5	8	10	5	1	38	72
Totals	204	29	12	6	10	50	97	Under 5				1				2		2	4	1	3	1	11	14	22	2	8	41
								5 upwards	3	1														27		5	81	163

M 11

Table of Population, Births and of new Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the Knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1899 in the Dursley Rural District; classified according to Disease, Ages and Localities.

(B)

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics, Public Institutions being shown as separate Localities (a)	Population at all ages: Last Census (b)	Population at all ages: Estimated to middle of 1899 (c)	Registered Births (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5 (e)	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health: 1 Small-pox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Typhus	6 Enteric or Typhoid continued	7 Relapsing	8 Puerperal	9 Cholera	10 Erysipelas	11	12	13
					Fevers												
Dursley District	5242	5105	119	Under 5		1	4										
				5 upwards		7	9	1		1		1		7			
Workhouse	"	"	"	Under 5													
				5 upwards	1												
Uley District (#)	1926	1877	52	Under 5													
				5 upwards		1						2		1			
Wotton-under-Edge	2998	2871	104	Under 5		1		1									
				5 upwards		6	1			1		1		4			
Totals	10166	9853	275	Under 5		2	4			1							
				5 upwards		14	11	1		2		4		12			

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics, Public Institutions being shown as separate Localities (a)	Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for treatment in Isolation Hospitals: 1 Small-pox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Typhus	6 Enteric or Typhoid continued	7 Relapsing	8 Puerperal	9 Cholera	10 Erysipelas	11	12	13
	Fevers												
Dursley District													
Workhouse	1												
Uley District													
Wotton-under-Edge													
Totals	1												

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District Yes Since when? Nov 4th 1898. Besides the above mentioned Diseases inserted in the columns with blank headings the names of any other diseases that are notifiable in the District & fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District Mark (#) the Locality in which each Hospital is situated; if not within the District state where it is situated

Annual Report of Nuisances Reported and abated for the year ending December 31st 1899.

"Copy"

To the Dursley Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have visited and inspected 57 Registered Dairies and Milkshops in the eleven parishes of my District and found them satisfactory. There have been one case of Infectious Disease at one of the Registered premises, the child was isolated and a nurse kept to attend to it so as not to have any connexion with the milk or milk vessels and house thoroughly dis-infected after.

There have been 140 nuisances reported and abated and one summons issued.

Dwelling-Houses

Overcrowding abated	2
Delapidated and defective repaired	5
Cleaned and disinfected	38
Water supply provided	2

Closets:—

New provided	4
Rebuilt and repaired	9
Cleaned	26

Drains:—

New provided	3
Defective remedied	26
Foul ditches cleaned	8

Other Nuisances

Offensive refuse removed	9
Pig Nuisances abated	4
Offensive Cesspools abated	3
	140

Number of Nuisances abated without formal notice 66

Statutory notices served 74

Total 140

Summons issued 1

Thomas Robinson
Sanitary Inspector.

February 14th. 1900.